



Henderson County Department of Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Henderson County Department of Public Health Updates about Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Hendersonville, NC (March 18, 2020) ---- Henderson County leaders in our community have been working together and sharing resources to protect the health and safety of all in Henderson County. “Everyone involved with this response has an ultimate faith that our community will come together in any way necessary to address the challenges posed by this disease. We are strong, united and have always taken care of each other. We will do so again,” stated Steve Smith, Henderson County Health Director.

The medical community has been rapidly adopting new strategies including dedication of staff for advanced screening and assessment processes of patients and then testing for coronavirus if needed. That testing capacity is still limited but will improve over time. For that reason, it is important to prioritize testing capacity for those most at risk. If there is a positive case in Henderson County, it will be announced by the Henderson County Health Department Director to local media partners.

Remember, the current assessment for coronavirus testing in our community requires that a patient must at a minimum have:

- a negative flu test and fever and lower respiratory symptoms

OR

- contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Since Western North Carolina now has a confirmed case, it is important for everyone to continue to practice personal protection:

- Stay home when sick
- Avoid contact with persons that you know are sick
- Cover your cough (cough into your elbow or use a tissue and throw in trash)
- Practice good hand hygiene (wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing)

- If you do not have access to soap and water use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces with household cleaners
- Follow social distancing guidelines as recommended by the CDC.

Coronavirus symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you have these symptoms:

- Call your healthcare provider. Isolate yourself and follow their advice.
- If you are having a medical emergency, call 9-1-1. Please inform the dispatcher that you have symptoms of COVID-19.

For more information, call the North Carolina Coronavirus Hotline at 1-866-462-3821 (staffed by nurses and pharmacists 24/7), or visit the Center for Disease Control's website for information and frequent updates at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Call-out Boxes for Screening Options:

- **Pardee UNC Health COVID-19 Helpline: 828-694-8048.** Call between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to determine if symptoms qualify for flu and / or COVID-19 testing. Pardee UNC Health and the Henderson County Public Health, working with Henderson County Emergency Management, and the Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition began operating a drive-through COVID-19 screening site on the main campus of Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock, NC on March 15. Patients are asked to refrain from showing up at the site without first being screened by phone and must call the Helpline (828-694-8048) first.
- **AdventHealth Triage Nurse Hotline: 828-681-2300.** This is a 24-hour hotline the public can call to speak with a Registered Nurse and, if needed, receive a referral to be tested. AdventHealth Hendersonville has opened a testing site for patients experiencing possible symptoms of COVID-19. It is located at 50 Hospital Drive, Hendersonville, outside the Medical Office Building. It is open Monday – Friday, 9:30 am to 6 pm. This is a resource for patients who have a doctor's order or have been referred by the AdventHealth Triage Nurse Hotline (828-681-2300).

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